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Department of State

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Action

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FROM: PARIS

Info

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: POLTO 2796, MARCH 25, 4 PM

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SENT DEPARTMENT POLTO 2796, MOSCOW POLTO 159; REPEATED
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FOLLOWING IS COMPLETE TEXT US REPLY TO SOVIET NOTE OF
MARCH 2 AS APPROVED IN NAC MARCH 25.

VERBATIM TEXT

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES REFERS TO THE NOTE OF
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USSR OF MARCH 2, 1959, IN RESPONSE
TO THE UNITED STATES NOTE OF FEBRUARY 16 PROPOSING A
CONFERENCE OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FRANCE,
THE USSR, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS CONSISTENTLY FAVORED
MEETINGS OF INTERESTED POWERS THAT COULD PROVIDE OPPOR-
TUNITIES FOR CONDUCTING SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS OF MAJOR
PROBLEMS AND COULD BE AN EFFECTIVE MEANS OF REACHING
AGREEMENT ON SIGNIFICANT SUBJECTS. IT WAS FOR THIS REASON
THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN ITS NOTE OF FEBRUARY
16 PROPOSED A MEETING OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF
FRANCE, THE USSR, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED
STATES. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT NOTES WITH SATISFACTION
THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT'S AGREEMENT TO SUCH A MEETING.

SPECIFICALLY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PROPOSES THAT A
MEETING OF FRANCE, THE USSR, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE
UNITED STATES AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL BE
CONVENED IN GENEVA ON MAY 11, 1959, TO CONSIDER QUESTIONS
RELATING

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-2- POLTO 2796, MARCH 25, 4 PM, FROM PARIS.

RELATING TO GERMANY, INCLUDING A PEACE TREATY WITH GERMANY AND THE QUESTION OF BERLIN. NATURALLY, ANY OF THE FOUR PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT ITS VIEWS ON ANY QUESTION WHICH IT MAY CONSIDER RELEVANT TO THE PROBLEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION. THE PURPOSE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING SHOULD BE TO REACH POSITIVE AGREEMENTS OVER AS WIDE A FIELD AS POSSIBLE, AND IN ANY CASE TO NARROW THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE RESPECTIVE POINTS OF VIEW AND TO PREPARE CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION BY A CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT LATER IN THE SUMMER. ON THIS UNDERSTANDING AND AS SOON AS DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING JUSTIFY HOLDING A SUMMIT CONFERENCE, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD BE READY TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A CONFERENCE. THE DATE, PLACE AND AGENDA FOR SUCH A CONFERENCE WOULD BE PROPOSED BY THE MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS. THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT COULD CONSIDER AND IF POSSIBLE RESOLVE SOME WIDER PROBLEMS SUCH AS THOSE REFERRED TO IN THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT'S NOTE OF MARCH 2 AND IN PREVIOUS COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND WHERE NECESSARY ESTABLISH MACHINERY FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATION ON THESE PROBLEMS.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FULLY RECOGNIZES THAT POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA, LIKE A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES, HAVE A LEGITIMATE AND DIRECT INTEREST IN CERTAIN MATTERS WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED IN THE CONFERENCE. THE POSSIBILITY OF THE PARTICIPATION OF OTHER COUNTRIES AT A CERTAIN STAGE IN NEGOTIATIONS COULD THEREFORE BE CONTEMPLATED. HOWEVER, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THE PROPOSED MEETING SHOULD AT LEAST AT THE OUTSET INVOLVE ONLY THE FOUR POWERS RESPONSIBLE FOR GERMANY. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ALSO NOTES THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT AGREES WITH THE PROPOSAL MADE IN ITS NOTE OF FEBRUARY 16 THAT GERMAN ADVISORS SHOULD BE INVITED TO THE MEETING ON MAY 11 AND BE CONSULTED.

THE GOVERNMENT

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-3- POLTO 2796 MARCH 25, 4 PM, FROM PARIS.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN PROPOSING A FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING ON MAY 11 UNDERSTANDS THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT WOULD FIND GENEVA A SUITABLE LOCATION. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WILL THEREFORE INQUIRE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SWITZERLAND TO DETERMINE IF THIS PLACE AND TIME WOULD BE CONVENIENT AND ALSO OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO ASCERTAIN IF THE FACILITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE.

END VERBATIM TEXT.

BURGESS

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Note: Advance copy to Mr. Vigderman (GER) 2:10 p.m., 3/25/59 CWO-M.

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